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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
SS-15 SP-02 INRE-00 INR-07 /060 W
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O 291545Z NOV 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2152
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T CAIRO 19748

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR EG IS JO LE SY SA US
SUBJECT: CAIRO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR GENEVA

1. AMBASSADOR ARRANGED FOR VISITING PROFESSOR FRED KHOURY TO MEET WITH SADAT, NOVEMBER 28, IN ISMAILIA. IN COURSE OF ABBREVIATED TALK, SADAT EXPLAINED THAT, AS HE ENVISAGES IT, PREPARATORY CAIRO CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS ITSELF TO BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. ITS PURPOSE, HE REITERATED AS HE HAS BEEN DOING WITH VARIOUS PRESSMEN, WILL BE TO DRAW UP GENERAL OUTLINES OF A FINAL COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. IF OTHER ARAB STATES PARTICIPATE, ALL THE BETTER. IF THEY DO NOT, HE INTENDS STILL TO GO AHEAD AND PRESENT RESULTS TO ARAB SUMMIT FOR CONSIDERATION. HE WAS UNRESPONSIVE TO KHOURY'S ARGUMENT ON NEED TO BRING SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS TO THE CONFERENCE. THEY HAD BEEN INVITED, SADAT NOTED, AND IT IS NOW UP TO THEM.

2. ASKED BY KHOURY WHAT MADE HIM THINK RESULTS OF CON-
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FERENCE WILL BE SATISFACTORY, SADAT GAVE TWO REASONS: (A) HE COUNTED ON USG ASSISTANCE TO PERSUADE ISRAEL MAKE THE NECESSARY CONCESSIONS AND (B) HIS RECENT TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS HAD LEFT HIM OPTIMISTIC. KHOURY CAUTIONED THAT ISRAEL MIGHT SEEK TO EXPLOIT PRESENT ARAB DISARRAY BY SEEKING TO DEPICT SYRIANS AND PLO AS OPPOSED TO PEACE. HENCE, SOME SPECIAL EFFORT NEEDED TO BRING

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SYRIANS AND PLO BACK INTO THE PEACE EFFORT. EGYPT SHOULD NOT GO IT ALONE. SADAT STRESSED HIS PURPOSE IS TO WORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE, NOT SIMPLY AN EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI SETTLEMENT, BUT SHOWED NO INCLINATION GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO APPEASE SYRIANS OR PLO. THE ME PEACE PROCESS, HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES, HAD TO BE GIVEN SOME MOMENTUM.

3. PARA 5 OF CAIRO 19599 REPORTED ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI'S COMMENT THAT, IN ADDITION TO INVITATIONS TO SYRIANS AND JORDANIANS, HE EXPECTED HIGH-LEVEL FOLLOWUP COMMUNICATIONS TO BE SENT BY SADAT TO ASSAD AND TO KING HUSSEIN. ASKED ABOUT THIS, VP MUBARAK TOLD AMBASSADOR, NOVEMBER 28, THAT THERE WILL BE NO SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL COMMUNICATIONS TO SYRIA OR JORDAN AT THIS TIME. THE INVITATION HAD BEEN SENT AND SADAT DOES NOT INTEND TO PLEAD WITH EITHER ASSAD OR HUSSEIN TO ATTEND. IT IS UP TO THEM.

4. ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT MUBARAK MAY SHORTLY BE SENT ON A TOUR OF THE ARAB STATES, THE VP DENIED THERE IS ANY SUCH INTENTION. NOR
IS THERE ANY IMMEDIATE INTENTION OF SENDING SOME OTHER SPECIAL ENVOY TO SYRIA OR JORDAN. (YESTERDAY MFA MEMBER OF WORKING GROUP TOLD EMBOFF THAT GROUP HAD GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO RECOMMENDING THAT A SPECIAL ENVOY BE SENT TO HUSSEIN, BUT NO SUCH RECOMMENDATION HAD BEEN INCLUDED.)

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MUBARAK MADE IT CLEAR THAT PRESENT GOE POSITION IS THAT IT IS UP TO THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO COME TO HIM, RATHER THAN VICE-VERSA, IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN THE CONFERENCE.
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Sent Date: 29-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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